(iv) Proposal for construction of an exclusive Coke jetty at Belikeri by private investment on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis (under consideration).

(v) Procurement of dredger for Karwar port approved under ASIDE Scheme.

(vi) The fishing harbour at Gangolli costing Rs. 10.80 crores is nearing completion.

(vii) Karwar port is being provided with ISPS facilities (International Ship & Port Security code) to be in tune with international practice.

(viii) Proposal for increasing Landing & Shipping fees under Karnataka Ports-Landing & Shipping Act is under finalization.

2. An exclusive fisheries port is proposed to be built at Amadalli, south of Karwar at an estimated cost of Rs. 14 crores as part of the rehabilitation and resettlement due to Project Sea Bird.

3. The Government of Karnataka proposes to obtain assistance under ASIDE scheme for upgrading the port facilities at Karwar port.

4. The State Government is also taking up improvement of minor ports under Budgetary grant.

Stem cell research

*177. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the possibility of the country becoming a nucleus of stem cell research; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam. Brainstorming meetings on stem cells were organized to identify priorities and to examine the possibilities to enhance research in this area in the country. The main features of strategy include promotion of stem cell research for therapeutic applications using adult and embryonic stem cells as well as other more readily available sources such as bone marrow, peripheral blood and umbilical cord blood cells.

(b) Major initiatives have been taken to develop stem cell research programmes for limbal, haematopoitic, neural, liver, cardiac, embryonic and human corneal stem cells and the stem cell preservation. Limbal stem cells are being used at L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad to repair cornea surface disorders caused by limbal stem cells deficiencies. The studies conducted at the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune and the Indian Institure of Science (IISc.), Bangalore showed that banana lectins have stem cell preservation activities. Long and short term training programme have been initiated. National and International conferences on the various aspects of the subject are being periodically organized. Inter institutional city clusters programmes have been implemented at Vellore and Pune by involving basic researchers, clinicians and industry. This includes sharing of information, exploration of possibilities of collaboration between them and discussion on emerging policy issues etc. Bangalore, Hyderabad and Delhi city cluster programmes have also been considered. It has been decided to establish Centres of Excellence for stem cell research initially at 2 or 3 places to initiate focused, targeted programmes on human stem cell research by involving basic researchers and clinicians. An advertisement to invite proposals to identify the programmes and the sites has been widely publicized.

Attestation of certificates by Ministry of External Affairs

*178. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries which need the educational certificates to be attested by the Department of Education and the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the job aspirants wishing to go to these countries have to come to Delhi from all over India; and

(c) whether Government would extend this facility of attestation to the States as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) all the countries require the educational certificates of Indian emigrants/visitors, legalized by Government of India;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department of Secondary & Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, has already authorised 13 States Govern-